

Dear Parent(s),

Whew...it has been a whirlwind start but such a great beginning to the year. We are working hard on organizing supplies and teaching kids to keep their supplies for each subject together so they have everything they need when class begins. We are getting better at it each day.

These updates are intended to keep you informed of what is happening with activities and academics in our classrooms. We will always include a blurb about each subject, dates for your calendar, and fun knowledge about things happening at school you can discuss with your child. The Silver Team works closely together each day planning activities and instruction and we hope the kids are coming home with positive things to say in the first few days. Please let us know if you have concerns so we can address them as soon as possible.

There are lots of fun and exciting **clubs** happening every day. Student council, yearbook, robotics, running club, and archery club are just a few of the clubs that have already started meeting. We find that kids involved in some type of club enjoy school more. They make friends that have common interests and learn to balance their time and stay organized. Please talk to your child about any interest they have in joining a club and check out the school website for more information.

This week we are beginning to establish a normal schedule and have started work in all subjects except for spelling. **(Spelling groups will begin September 19th.)** We like to give you short updates and enough information to start conversations around the dinner table so here you go:

Reading: our focus this week has been on setting yourself up for a successful and independent reading life. We are talking about setting goals, reading logs, choosing just right books, and creating a successful environment for reading. Next week we will focus on partnerships and how to be social about reading. All students are expected to be reading for 30 minutes at home at least 4 times per week in addition to class time given for reading.

Writing: We have started talking about personal narratives. This week we have been giving a different brainstorming strategy each day in an effort to get lots of story ideas to work with next week. Then we will focus on small moment stories and adding specific details and dialog to bring stories to life for the reader.

Math: We have started Unit 1, which focuses on statistics and working with data. We are learning about range, median, mean, and mode. We are working with different types of graphs such as stem and leaf plots and step graphs. We will continue to talk about interpreting data and drawing conclusions as the unit progresses. We have done some ability grouping in math but have kids grouped more in clusters to attempt to provide some differentiation. Please know there is not a high, medium, and low group. However, we may have grouped together 5-6 kids that we feel could complete a differentiated activity that might provide enrichment or extra practice. We will continue to move kids around to best meet

their needs and all groups will cover the same material in the same time frame. All kids will be taking the same test at the same time and move on to Unit 2 together.

Please note that we alternate science and social studies every 6 weeks.

- Mr. Ryan's students have Science with Mrs. Hall.
- Mrs. Hall's students have Social Studies with Mr. Ryan.
- Mrs. Charles's students have Social Studies with her.

Social Studies: Map skills and discussions about 9/11 have occurred this week. Next week we will begin to learn about geocaching in preparation for our field trip to Retzer Nature Center and planetarium in October.

Science: We started our unit on Earth In Space this week. We have been talking about scale models and just how big the earth, moon, and sun are and how far apart they are. Ask your child how many classrooms it would take to make a space large enough for the sun when the earth is 12 cm in diameter – they should be able to tell you. Next week we will learn about the tilt of the earth and what causes seasons.

Mark your calendar!

September 20th we will be offering information sessions each half hour from 3:00-6:00 p.m. on how we use the wiki page to update assignments and how to access textbooks online for science and social studies. Our intention is to show you each site and how to access the information so you can help your child utilize these tools at home.

October 13th we have a field trip planned to Retzer Nature Center. We will see a program in the planetarium and geo cache on the grounds. If you are interested in chaperoning for this trip please contact your child's homeroom teacher. The permission slip will be handed out in Mrs. Charles and Mrs. Hall's classrooms on Monday (Mr. Ryan's class already got them) but the form is also attached.

Fun Stuff:

Mr. Ryan is celebrating his first football wins this week as one of the freshman coaches. Mrs. Charles is cheering extra loud for the Brewer's this weekend – she is a big fan. Mrs. Hall will be at the Ironman in Madison this weekend cheering for her husband when he makes it across the finish line. Mr. Fredricks will be getting some extra sleep after falling asleep reading a book to his son on Thursday night and missing the entire Packer game.

If you have any further questions feel free to contact us.

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